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Colton Primary School
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'Everyone Successful Everyday'

22nd December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a fantastic autumn term with lots of brilliant things going on. Last week, we had wonderful Christmas performances and we do hope you have enjoyed them. The children and staff have worked really hard to make sure everything ran smoothly. I am sure you will agree, they were great. Monies from the tickets purchased for our performances have contributed to Christmas parties, (along with donations from the PTA), so thank you very much for your support.

Every class is having a Christmas party this week, the children had Christmas dinner on Wednesday (which was amazing) and everyone is getting ready for the holidays.

Elf Run



On Tuesday, our Elf Run in aid of Simon on the Streets raised an incredible **£2,075.14**. This will go directly to supporting people who do not have a safe place to sleep. The charity offers practical and emotional support for people sleeping on the streets of Leeds and Bradford. Thank you so much for your kind generosity – it will make an enormous difference.

Christmas Raffle

The PTA sold raffle tickets which raised a total of £231. Congratulations to the winners, Leanne Stanley and Steph Hayes!

Friends of Temple Newsam Carol Concert

Last Wednesday Colton's choir performed at Temple Newsam House. Mrs. Orchard and Mrs. Smith were so proud of them and we had a lovely message from the friends of Temple Newsam stating the children were a credit to the school.



Parents Survey Results

Thank you so much to everyone who completed our parents and carers questionnaire about school. We were thrilled to receive 56 responses and the feedback over all is extremely positive:

- 100% of respondents said their child felt happy and enjoys coming to school.
- 100% said their child feels safe in school.
- 100% said their child was well looked after and cared for in school.
- 100% said their child was motivated and taught well at the school.
- 96% said their child was making good progress.
- 96% said their child can take part in after school clubs.
- 96% said the school had high expectations for their child.
- 99% said the school encouraged the children to behave well.
- 94% said the school keeps them informed about their child's learning.
- 95% said the school has effective strategies to deal with bullying.
- 99% said the school teaches a good range of subjects.
- 100% of parents felt they can approach the teacher or the school with any concerns,
- 99% said they would recommend the school to another parent.

We have also shared responses below to the comments that were made.

Question: Our child doesn't always do PE on the day he comes to school in his kit, is there a specific reason?

Answer: We are using the hall PE slots to rehearse for the Christmas Productions.

Comment: Drop off can be a little chaotic on a morning with lots of children crying and parents not leaving their children because they are upset. This then leads to a line full of parents with upset children and it is hard to get into school smoothly.

Response: We want all children to be happy and safe coming into school. Some children are more anxious than others and we will support those pupils. Parents can help by reassuring their child and encouraging them to line up with their peers or come in with a member of staff.

Comment: Please can you be conscious of working parents with all the invitations to come into school. The current volume just isn't possible, so my child is left without a parent at events.

Response: We understand this can be difficult, particularly as we have several events at this time of year. Staff, other parents and relatives usually gather up any children who don't have an adult so they can still celebrate or share their learning, although this won't feel the same. During the rest of the school year, parents are invited to the class celebrations or stay and play once a term so there will be less events in the spring term.

Comment: Tapestry is great, I love seeing what my children have been doing in class. However, there is a lot of information on there and sometimes I can miss things as there is so much.

Communication update

At Colton, we want to make sure parents and carers are kept informed about what their children are learning, so we can celebrate their achievements and progress together. We love to hear what the children have been up to at home, and this forms an important part of working together. Please add any examples of learning continuing at home. Or, you can leave a like or a positive comment about the wonderful learning going on in school – we love reading your thoughts. We also want you to know what is coming up for the children in school and we communicate all of this on Tapestry.

At the moment, teachers send out class messages, the school office send out messages and we summarise key information each week on our Friday updates. We also try to provide a termly overview, in advance, on monthly newsletters.

Teachers are receiving a high volume of messages and queries throughout the school day, and it is not possible to respond to these as teachers are working with the children. Please find time to read the weekly reminders as many of these queries have already been answered on the updates. From January, we will continue to check Tapestry at the end of each day. We will not be responding to messages on Tapestry which arrive on a weekend or after 5:30pm. However, parents and carers can message at a time that is convenient to them and we aim to respond within 2 working days. If your child is poorly or going to be absent from school, please ring the school office as they are responsible for attendance.

Staff at Colton have the children at the centre of everything we do. Please trust us to deal with the situations which arise through the school day. If there is something serious which we feel you need to be informed about, you will be contacted by the class teacher,

Mrs Beard, someone from the school office or a member of the Senior Leadership Team. If you have a serious concern or query, Tapestry is not the appropriate place to raise this. Please ring the school office to make an appointment with the class teacher at a mutually convenient time.

If you have any quick questions, parents and carers can catch us briefly on the playground at the start of the day. Please be mindful that the children are waiting, and staff should be in class, ready to start the lesson before 9am. You can also catch us at the end of the day, but these conversations should be brief as staff have curriculum meetings, assessment, marking and preparation to complete.

Behaviour Policy and Parent Panel

We are currently updating the Behaviour Policy, which is available on the school website. If you would like to be involved with reviewing and updating the policy, please attend our next Parent's Panel on Friday 19th January 2024 at 9am. If you are attending, we would appreciate you letting us know by emailing the school office on info@cps.rklt.co.uk.

We ask for your support in teaching the children about good and poor choices and taking responsibility for their actions. We have high expectations and will support all children to work towards those expectations. When necessary, if we need to apply consequences and sanctions, this will always be done in a fair, consistent, and proportionate way, with the aim of helping the children to make better choices in the future.

Reviving the Sensory Garden

We would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Coello and her happy band of helpers for working extremely hard to revive our much neglected Sensory Garden. It has been transformed from an unusable space into a lovely area for the Children's Centre and our pupils to use and enjoy.



School Attendance and Absences

If your child is poorly and not able to attend school, please ring the school office as soon as possible and let us know.

We are really proud of our attendance which is currently 96.2% but this is below our target of 97.5%. Please note, holidays taken in term time will not be authorised, as absence for holidays is not permitted as explained in the DFE Guidance regarding school attendance.

Class	Attendance this week	Attendance so far this year
Year Reception	91%	95.03%
Year 1	100%	96.44%
Year 2	98.57%	97.97%
Year 3	94.29%	96.92%
Year 4	98.16%	96.39%
Year 5	94.58%	96.1%
Year 6	88.67%	95.9%

Road Safety and Safeguarding

We take our safeguarding responsibilities seriously to keep the children safe. Recently, a child ran out onto the road at the end of the school day. Thankfully, the car managed to stop in time. Please make sure you are supervising your little ones closely. We also ask that parents do not park in the staff car park. We have had near misses as it is dark and it can be difficult to see when reversing. If you are using Kids Club, please park on School Lane and use the pedestrian gate.

Book Fair

Thank you to everyone who came and visited the Book Fair. With your support, we raised £163.03 which was spent on new books chosen by the School Council. We hope the children enjoy their lovely new books.

We wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year, from all the staff at Colton Primary School. Have a lovely holiday.

With best wishes,

Mrs Caroline Johnson

Headteacher

Dates for your diary

Date	Activity
Friday 22 nd December	PTA pop up shop on the playground at the end of the day School Closes for Christmas holiday
Monday 8 th January 2024	School Closed: Training Day
Tuesday 9 th January 2024	School reopens
Wednesday 10 th January 2024	Dance Workshops Year 1 to Year 5 (PE kit needed)
Monday 15 th – Tuesday 23 rd January 2024	Mental Health and Well-being Week (Including D-Side visits)
Friday 19 th January 2024	9am Parents Panel in the hall. Subjects for discussion communication and reviewing the Behaviour Policy
Thursday 18 th January 2024	Special Lunch details to be confirmed
Friday 9 th February 2024	School closes at the end of the day for February half term
Monday 19 th February 2024	School reopens
Monday 11 th March – Friday 15 th March 2024	Science Week (TBC)
Friday 22 nd March 2024	Times Table Rock Stars Day (TBC)
Wednesday 27 th March 2024	School closes at the end of the day for Easter Holiday
Thursday 28 th March 2024	School closed - Training Day
Monday 15 th April 2024	School reopens
Wednesday 17 th to Friday 19 th April 2024	Year 6 Residential Visit to Robin Wood
Monday 13 th May – Thursday 16 th May 2024	KS2 (Y6) SATS Test Week
Monday 20 th May 2024-Friday 24 th May 2024	Enterprise Week (Details to be confirmed)
Friday 24 th May 2024	School closes at the end of the day for half term
Monday 3 rd June 2024	School reopens
Thursday 27 th June 2024	EYFS Sports Day (TBC)
Friday 28 th June 2024	School Sports Day (TBC)
Friday 19 th July 2024	School closes for summer holiday
Monday 22 nd July 2024	School closed – Training Day

